CLAIMS:

1.   A method for management of availability of functions in a network of electronic devices (10 - 16) by a server (1) connected to the network, characterized in that functions of the devices are performed by the server when the devices are switched off.

5   2.   A method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that before shutting down a device (11 - 16) transmits a command and where applicable data to the server (1) whereupon the latter takes over certain standby functions of the device.

3.   A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the server (1)
10   transmits with time delay data to and/or from a disconnected device (11 - 16).

4.   A method as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the server (1) automatically detects and monitors the connection of networks and/or active devices (10 - 16).

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5.   A method as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the server (1) informs a device (10 - 16) newly connected to the network that it is present and which functions it can perform.

20   6.   A method as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that the devices are televisions (11), video recorders (12, 13), set-top boxes, computers (14) and/or domestic appliances (15).

7.   A server (1) for management of availability of functions in a network of
25   electronic devices (10 - 16), containing a central processor (3), a memory (4) and at least one network interface (2, 5, 6), characterized in that it is designed to be able to perform standby functions of the devices when these are switched off.

8.   A server as claimed in claim 7, characterized in that it is designed to perform a
30   method as claimed in at least one of claims 1 to 6.

9.   A server as claimed in claim 7 or 8, characterized in that it contains an interface for data transmission in a power supply network and is designed to receive data from the power supply network and after any processing retransmit these on at least one
5   phase line of the power supply network.

10.   A server as claimed in at least one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that it contains inputs/outputs for connection of different transmitter and receiver modules, where the transmitter and receiver modules can communicate with devices of network and the
10   server can transmit data between the transmitter and receiver modules.